

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 have been withdrawn and Claims 21 to 68 remain in this application.

In the corresponding Office Action, the Examiner has required the applicant to elect a single invention from:

Group I, claims 1 to 15;

Group II, claims 16 to 19;

Group III, claim 20; and

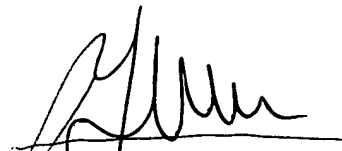
Group IV, claims 21 to 68. In response to the examiners request, we elect Group IV claims 21 to 68 without traverse.

Additionally, in order to further characterize preferred embodiments Claims 21, 33, 45, and 57, have been amended.

In the corresponding Office Action, the Examiner provides that Group I claims are shown by Rothschild et al (US Patent 5,643,722) and lack novelty or inventive step. We disagree; however, Claims 1-20 have been withdrawn in order to further prosecution, and the applicant hereby expressly reserves the right to prosecute the original (or similar) claims.

The applicants respectfully request that a timely notice of allowance be issued in this case.

Dated: February 8, 2005


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